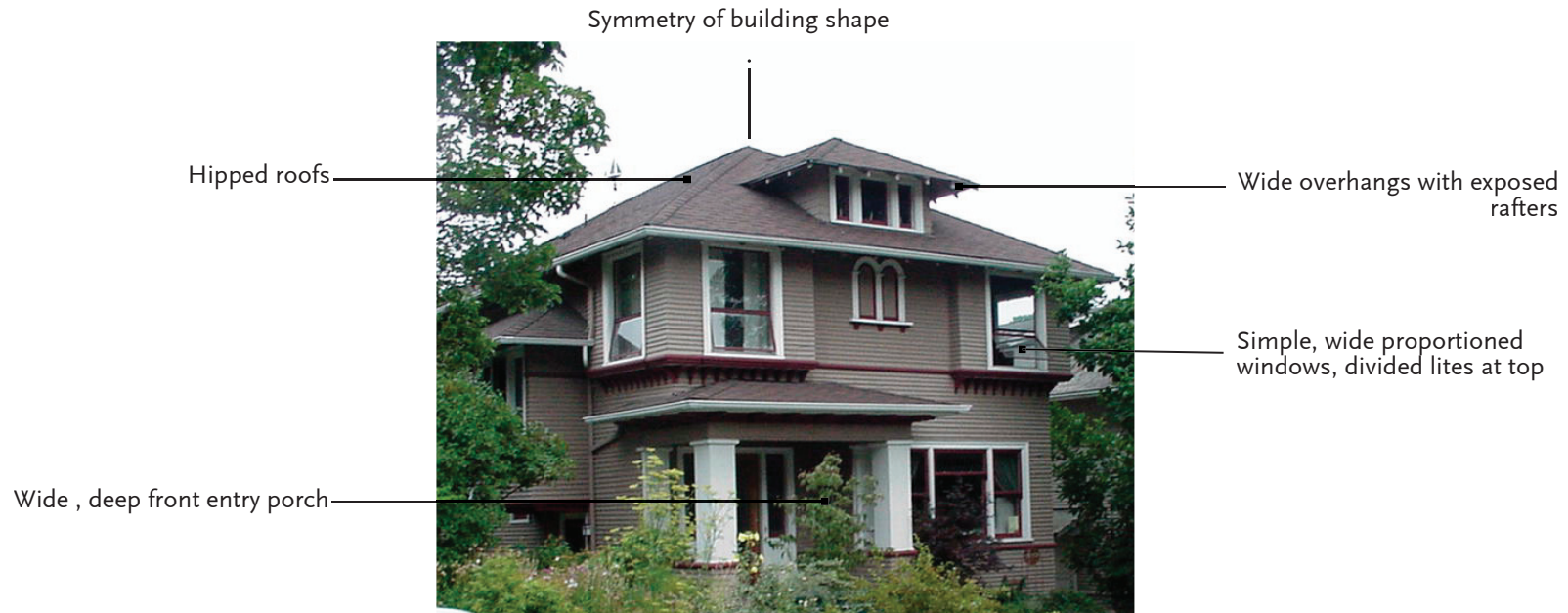


## 5 . F O U R S Q U A R E



## H I S T O R Y

The Foursquare is what many consider the all American home and was one of the most popular styles that emerged for suburban development from 1895 to 1930. Influenced by the Chicago Prairie style. Most popular at the turn of the century, these comfortable houses provided large square-footage in a flexible and efficient plan. It was made popular by pattern books and Sears Roebuck and Company.

The Foursquare was economical and easy to build due to strong square massing. Foursquare's often had arts and crafts detailing, especially at the entrance and porch.

## E L E M E N T S O F S T Y L E

The dominant horizontal element of this style is the low-hipped roof with deep overhangs and full width porch. Small roof dormers accentuated the style's symmetry and balance. There were endless variations and finish details that created variations from a very consistent basic form. American Foursquare houses incorporate elements from Prairie and Colonial Revival styles including tapered or paneled front porch columns on brick pedestals, exposed rafters and one over one-sash windows.

The foursquare typically has a broad front porch. A one-story hipped roof porch typically extends across the full width of the street façade creating a welcoming entry. Porches are very important to the

design and were found both on the front and the back. The main volume consisted of a two or two and a half story box with a windowed hipped dormer in the attic space. These dormers were used even if the attic space was not habitable. Second story corner dormers with decorative bracketing were seen on more ornate examples. The proportions are low and broad the plan was typically square and open.